

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.:JCM
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH
S/S-O - MR. MARTIN

-----006449 202323Z /61

O 202306Z JUN 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0353

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 156882

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR

1. LATE JUNE 20 WE RECEIVED TEXT OF FOLLOWING LETTER
WHICH WAS SENT TO SPEAKER O'NEILL JUNE 19 BY SPECIAL
COUNSEL JAWORSKI, WITH COPIES ALSO SENT TO CONGRESSMEN
WRIGHT, ZABLOCKI, FLYNT, RHODES, MAHON, CLARENCE LONG,
AND WHITTEN.

2. WE WILL COMMENT TOMORROW FOLLOWING SOUNDINGS AND
EVALUATION HERE.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

(A) AS YOU KNOW, HOUSE RESOLUTION 1194 EXPRESSES THE
SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF COOPERATION
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FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WITH RESPECT TO THE
PRODUCTION OF INFORMATION KNOWN TO FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM
DONG JO, THE HOUSE "WILL BE PREPARED TO DENY OR REDUCE
NON-MILITARY ASSURANCE" TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.
BECAUSE OF THE IMMINENCE OF FINAL ACTION BY THE HOUSE
UPON LEGISLATION THAT WOULD APPROPRIATE THE FUNDS,
SOME OF WHICH ARE INTENDED FOR NON-MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, I AM WRITING TO REPORT THE STATUS OF OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE COOPERATION WITH RESPECT TO KIM DONG JO.

(B) ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PASSAGE OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 1194, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION OF COMPLYING WITH THE REQUEST OF THE HOUSE THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM VOLUNTARILY PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT. IN LINE WITH THIS POSITION, THERE WAS NO RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE OTHER THAN THE PUBLIC STATEMENT MENTIONED ABOVE. CONSEQUENTLY, ON JUNE 5 FIVE DAYS AFTER PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION, I REQUESTED A MEETING WITH THE CURRENT AMBASSADOR FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA KIM YONG SHIK. MY REQUEST WAS GRANTED AND ON JUNE 6 THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

(C) AT THE JUNE 6 MEETING I STRESSED THE NEED FOR POSITIVE STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO SECURE THE COOPERATION CALLED FOR IN HOUSE RESOLUTION 1194. FURTHERMORE, I OFFERED TO NEGOTIATE WITH FLEXIBILITY AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONCERNS OF SOUTH KOREA, THE MANNER IN WHICH INFORMATION WOULD BE CONVEYED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM IF THE COMMITTEE COULD BE ASSURED THAT THE INFORMATION WOULD BE FORTHRIGHT AND NOT EVASIVE. WE EVEN OFFERED, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
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BY THE ETHICS COMMITTEE, TO PERMIT OUR WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED, ANSWERED AND RETURNED WITHOUT PERSONAL CONFRONTATION BY ANYONE REPRESENTING THE COMMITTEE.

(D) OUR APPROACH WAS RECEIVED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND EXPRESSIONS OF OPTIMISM THAT A SOLUTION COULD BE REACHED. NEVERTHELESS, NOTHING WAS HEARD FROM THE SOUTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES. WHEREUPON ON JUNE 15, I SENT A MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR KIM YONG SHIK FIRMLY REQUESTING A RESPONSE TO MY OFFER SO THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, I COULD FULFILL MY RESPONSIBILITY TO APPRISE THE HOUSE OF THE STATUS OF OUR EFFORTS. A MEETING BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND ME WAS ARRANGED FOR, AND TOOK PLACE ON TODAY JUNE 19.

(E) AT TODAY'S MEETING, AMBASSADOR KIM STATED TO ME THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO WAS PREPARED TO ANSWER WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE, BUT THAT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE ADVANCE ASSURANCE OF THE NATURE OF THE RESPONSE. I REPEATEDLY SOUGHT SOME ASSURANCE OF A MEANINGFUL TREATMENT OF OUR QUESTIONS AND RECEIVED NONE. AMBASSADOR KIM STATED THAT

HE WOULD TRANSMIT OUR VIEWS TO SEOUL AND THAT HE WAS
UNWILLING TO INDICATE WHEN A RESPONSE COULD BE EXPECTED.

(F) IT IS MY POSITION THAT AMBASSADOR KIM'S
INDICATED PROCEDURE, WHICH IS NO DIFFERENT THAN THAT
ORIGINALLY OFFERED AND REJECTED MONTHS AGO, CANNOT BE
ACCEPTED NOW. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE ATTEMPTED ONCE AGAIN
TO CONVINCE THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO PROVIDE US WITH
SUCH ASSURANCES, I REGRET TO REPORT THAT, AT THIS TIME,
THE COOPERATION REQUESTED IN HOUSE RESOLUTION 1194 HAS
NEITHER BEEN PROVIDED NOR PROMISED. IN BRIEF, THERE
HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIAL INDICATION OF COOPERATION.

(G) NATURALLY, I SHALL APPRISE YOU AND THE RECIPIENTS
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OF COPIES OF THIS LETTER FORTHWITH IF THERE IS ANY
CHANGE IN THE SITUATION. END TEXT.

4. PLEASE DO NOT RPT NOT SHARE TEXT WITH ROKG. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Subject: KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, US, KS, (O'NEILL, THOMAS P JR), (KIM DONG-JO), (JAWORSKI, LEON)
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